## IV.

*Hiſtory of a Caſe terminating favourably, in which an extra-uterine Fœtus was diſcharged, at an opening in the Abdomen, near the Umbilicus. Communicated to Dr Duncan, in a letter from Dr* Colin Maclarty, *of Jamaica.*

A Healthy, good looking negro woman, named Juliet, about 22 years of age, the property of George Mawate, Eſq. was ſeized with the uſual ſymptoms of approaching labour, on the 1ſt of Auguſt 1790, when the common time of geſtation had expired. But, from the lingering, unproductive ſtate in which ſhe remained for ſeveral days, the midwife and attendants grew impatient, and requeſted to have medical advice. Accordingly, my partner, Dr John Macklaſhan, was called in on the 5th; and, on examining the parts, was a good deal ſurpriſed, to find

none of thoſe changes which generally precede parturition. In this ſituation, the poor woman was directed to be kept quiet: due attention was paid to the bowels, and an opiate was preſcribed. I ſaw her the day following, along with Dr John and Dr Charles Macklaſhan, and found her much in the ſame condition: there was then, no alteration in the vagina, nor dilatation of the os internum. The tumour of the abdomen remained high above the pelvis, and had never in the leaſt ſubſided. From theſe, and other appearances, we immediately began to ſuſpect an extra-uterine conception; and a little farther obſervation, perfectly confirmed us in our conjecture. One circumſtance, however, occurred, which ſeemed to militate againſt the idea we had formed; and which I am at a loſs to explain, in a manner ſatisfactory to myſelf. A conſiderable diſcharge of pale-coloured blood from the vagina took place, and continued more or leſs for eight or ten days, and then gradually diſappeared. Now, whether this extraordinary action of the uterus could be conſidered as having any connection with the general laws of the animal œconomy, which, at this period, would,

would, in an impregnated ſtate, have peculiarly affected this organ, I will not take upon me to determine; but will leave the fact to thoſe more capable of judging. During part of Auguſt, the whole of September, October, and November, there was no apparent change. The poor creature was all this time in a ſtate of extreme anxiety, eagerly looking up for relief from thoſe who were no leſs ſolicitous to give her every aſſiſtance in their power; yet, as it was the unanimous opinion of all the medical gentlemen who had ſeen her, that no operation ſhould be attempted, prudence, as as well as humanity, pointed out the propriety of patiently watching the event.

In the beginning of December, a circumſcribed prominence began to form in the umbilical region, without creating much pain or uneaſineſs. This ſwelling increaſed for ſome weeks; and the teguments, unequal to the reſiſtance, at laſt gave way to a partial expulſion of a full-grown fœtus. The lower extremities and breech, came out at the orifice; and higher up, towards the ſtomach, the right arm, as far as the ſhoulder, was protruded at another opening, leaving an intermediate ſeptum

of two and a half, or three inches of the muſcles undivided. In this ſituation, it was the opinion of ſeveral gentlemen of acknowlegded abilities in the profeſſion, that, as nature had done ſo much, they would truſt a little farther to her operations. At this time, I had juſt recovered from a fever; and, on the information of Dr Arthur Broughton, took the earlieſt opportunity of ſeeing this extraordinary caſe, which I found exactly as deſcribed by him, and as already ſtated. From this period, I was often with her; and perceiving no immediate probability of a ſeparation of the part which ſeemed principally to confine the fœtus, I was induced to make an inciſion, and to divide it. I then graſped the body, and endeavoured to extract the head; but, as it lay deeper, and was more impacted in the viſcera than I could have expected, and finding my efforts, though gentle, likely to detach the body at the vertebræ of the neck, I had recourſe to the forceps; with the aſſiſtance of which I readily ſecured, and extracted it. A vaſt quantity of moſt offenſive putrid ſanies followed, but no veſtige of placenta; from which, I was led to conclude, that it muſt have been melted down into this corrupt

corrupt ſanies. A broad flannel roller was now wrapped, with a moderate degree of tightneſs, ſeveral times round the body, and nothing applied to the part but the mildeſt dreſſing, with a compreſs of ſoft old linen over it. An opiate was then ordered, and I left her.

This was on the 25th of December; and when I viſited her on the 26th, I found ſhe had reſted tolerably well during the night, but complained of pain in her bowels, attended with diarrhœa. This complaint, ariſing, I preſume, from acrid abſorption, was now rendered particularly formidable, from the very emaciated ſtate to which ſhe was already reduced. By the aid of the bark, however, with a light decoction of cortex Simaroubæ, wine, and generous diet, which her maſter liberally ſupplied, I have the pleaſure to inform you, that, on the 10th of January, ſhe was ſo far recovered, as to be able to ſit up, walk about the room, and to amuſe herſelf.

Since that period, ſhe has perfectly recovered her ſtrength, and looks ſtout and healthy; but as yet, (February 19th), has had no return of the catamenia.

Such has been the favourable termination of this uncommon caſe; and, I am ſorry to

add, in the midſt of ſo much good fortune, her domeſtic tranquillity is in danger of interruption; for ſo dreadful an impreſſion has her late ſufferings, and helpleſs proſpect, left in her mind, that ſhe ſeems determined never more to hazard a like event. But, as the negro who is her huſband, ſtill remains remarkably attentive to her, I am inclined to think, her reſolution will not be permanent. Should it happen, and any conſequences follow, worthy your notice, I ſhall be happy to tranſmit them.

" Stimuli naturæ certe ſufficiunt, et terror
" morborum nunquam adhuc maturam virgi-
" nem ab ara Veneris abegit, et nunquam abi-
" gere potent."